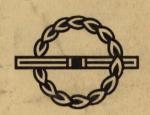
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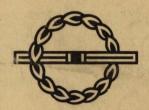


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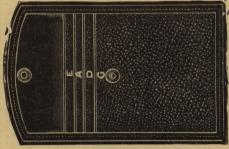
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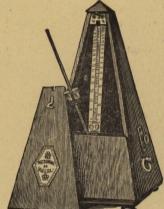
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LIVES OF GREAT PIANISTS.

GEORGE FREDERICK HANDEL

(Continued From Last Month.)

The Italian cantatas of Handel are likewise to be regarded as a less important branch, or even a component part of his operas, just as the chamber duets, anthems and similar compositions belong in the domain of his oratorios. For a brief survey of his works, it is therefore sufficient to confine ourselves to the opera and the oratorio. The opinion has been widespread and prevails even in our day, that so long as Handel occupied himself with the opera, he was obstinately pursuing the wrong path, which he only abandoned after many bitter experiences, in order henceforth to devote himself to the oratorio, for which nature had intended him. For it has always been considered one of the most marked characteristics of genius that it discovers the right way unconsciously, as it were, and impelled by inward necessity. According to this, Handel, with his forty operas, would have mistaken his true bent during the best forty years of his life. The opinion rests, however, upon the theory of an antithesis between the opera and the oratorio, which has never existed. During the hundred years preceding Handel's time, the two forms of art, simultaneous in origin, kept equal pace in their development. Naples, solo song attained almost complete supremacy in that field, while in the oratorio there was still room for the chorus. and the opportunity of doing this is what attracted Handel to the opera. If we reest. They are after the manner of all op- expression to a mood which proceeds from a plan was devised of twitching the strings

eratic poems in Italy in 1700, and generally derive their material from ancient history or from mythological lore. But the poets certainly show skill in so arranging their incidents that the personages concerned find opportunity to give utterance to their feelings. The portrayal of character, by means of music, was, then, the object in view. This Handel wished to accomplish in his operas, and, within the limits which he prescribed for himself, he was entirely successful. Not psychological progress, but psychological conditions were what he wished to represent in his arias, and the progress of the action lies always outside of the principal musical themes. That this was intentional with him, and also with the Italians of his time, is proved most clearly by the form of solo-song almost exclusively employed. The aria, as fashioned by Alessandro Scarlatti, is only adapted to a feeling which indeed arises above its original state, but soon returns to it. The recurrence of the first part at the end, after a weakly contrasting middle portion, is the image of a self centered exclusiveness. The direct opposite of this form is that in which a slow movement is followed by a more rapid one, so that the feeling passes from rest to motion, from contemplation to activity. This is certainly the dramatic form, and therefore Handel's opera music is not dramatic in a narrow sense. But no one will attempt to deny that his style has also its artistic justification and is sure of producing great effects whenever the hearer concentrates his attention upon the characteristic picture presented, rather than upon the suspense resulting from an uninterrupted continuous action. With inexhaustible inventive power, Handel has drawn such pictures in his operas. No reproach is less deserved than that he has acquired a stereotyped manner and turns out all his productiins as if they were cast in a mould. Whenever the same forms and turns recur in his works, they express exactly what is demanded by the situation and is necessary for the accomplishing of a powerful effect. Through the changes wrought in the opera For the rest, he seizes every problem firmly in the middle of the seventeenth century at and repeats himself as little as the circum-Venice, and from the end of that period at stances of our lives are exactly repeated, even if they sometimes seem to show a general resemblance. His work, to be sure, lies almost wholly in the province of simple The extraordinary pleasure derived from sensations - complicated, romantic, psychosolo-singing is shown by the effort made to logical conditions are out of his sphere. Soexpress the individual personality in music, called ensemble movements, in which different persons with strongly contrasting emotions confront each other, whose uttergard the poetic compositions employed by ances it has become one of the most interhim in the light of their dramatic value, esting tasks of the latter opera-composers their delineation of character, the syste- to weave together upon the ground of a cermatic management and increasing intensity tain universal sympathy, are of comparaof the action, they are not, for the most tively rare occurrence in his compositions. part, calculated to excite a profound inter- Just as little does he concern himself to give

a single scene, considered as such. The instrumental accompaniment, which finds herein one of its heaviest tasks, is always extremely simple and restrained. Everything really essential finds utterance through the singer. Singers of the highest order are therefore demanded by these operas, those who have not only command of the most highly perfected technique of their art, but whose creative mind enables them to become thoroughly imbued with the spirit of a piece of music. He lived in a time when the art of song on every side was in a condition of the highest cultivation, and it was under such influences that he was able to create those perfect specimens of characteristic and artistic song, found in almost superabundant measure in his operas. Because in our time this art has been lost, the beauty of Handel's opera arias remains for the most part concealed from us, but that another change will one day take place there is no doubt. An immediate revolution. to be sure, is not to be expected. Music has fallen by degrees from that lofty height, and only by degrees can she again attain unto it. What the operas of Handel will then signify to the world cannot today be even approximately estimated.

(To be continued.)

ORIGIN OF PIANOS.

A few weeks ago a paragraph went the round of the press stating that for £1,200 a well-known American multi-millionaire had secured the first piano ever made, constructed by an Italian in 1706, and exhibited at the St. Louis Exposition. This points to the instrument in question claiming to be the first made by Bartolomeo Cristofali of Padua, the acknowledged inventor of the pianoforte, though the date is generally given as 1710. If the report be true, then this interesting relic must have been discovered comparatively recently, for nothing seems to be known of the career of Cristofali, and but for the account of his invention, published in 1711, his name would hardly have been remembered.

How came the piano to be invented? The clavichord was one of the first stringed instruments to which the keyboard was attached, says the London Globe. The instrument, which was very popular in the fifteenth centuries, was something in the shape of a small square piano, without frame or legs. The strings of the clavichord were of brass, and its action was simply a piece of brass pin wire, which was placed vertically at a point where it could be pressed against its proper string. The pin could be held against the string as long as required by the firm pressure of the finger.

When the defects inherent in the construction of the clavichord were discovered, giving way, and remained above the string ferent rooms at the palace. as long as the finger was pressed on the played upon chiefly by young ladies.

ed.

melancholy, and better suited to the student in existence.-Metronome. and composer than any purpose of social amusement. The striking contrivance opened an entirely new field to the player by giving him the power of expression in addition to that of execution, for, by varying the touch, a greater or less degree of force could be given to the blows on the string. This was the great feature of the new invention, and gave to the improved instrument the name of pianoforte or fortepiano.

man, and English. The Italians claim it for instruments to the Academie des Sciences in February, 1716.

ginia," from whom it was purchased by over all the nuances from the faintest pian- underlying cause. Fulke Greville.

Bach was invited to try the instruments; teenth century. The instrument which ac-favorite song from 'Judith,' accompanied by companies Miss Neilson in her song in the Mr. Dibdin on a new instrument, called the spinnet, with one improvement. In the vir- became apparent, it was some time before ginal and spinnet there was but one string the piano was successful. The resources for each tone. Another string was added of the new instrument were not understood, to the harpsichord, thereby increasing the and the English harpsichord makers did not manufacture of harpsichords, the form of of German makers, including a party of which was precicely the same as a grand twelve in one company, who were known as pianoforte. At length the idea arose that the "Twelve Apostles," gave a great imby causing the key to strike the string in- petus to the business, and succeeded in popstead of pulling it the tone might be con-ularizing the instrument. From that period siderably improved, and the general cap- it only remained for later manufacturers to abilities of the instrument otherwise extend- perfect the action. It is a curious fact that many great compositions which now afford The tones of the clavichord, virginal, useful exercises for the piano, such as the

THE IMPORTANCE OF FINGER TRAINING.

issimo to the strongest forte, the delicacies

with small pieces of crowquill, affixed to the Great in 1747. The Prussian monarch and power before these valuable adjuncts minute springs adjusted in the upper part had been so much pleased with certain can be attempted at all. Moreover, when of small pieces of wood, termed "jacks." "fortepianos," manufactured by a Freyburg these are employed it must be with a dis-By the stroke of the finger the quill was maker, that he bought them all up, to the tinct recognition that they are, so to speak, forced past the string, its own elasticity number of fifteen, and placed them in dif- the luxuries of technic rather than everyday

In that all-important branch of piano playkey, giving the string liberty to sound. but he expressed his preference for the ing, tone production, the same attention When the finger was removed the quill re- clavichord, from which, whenever he had a must be paid to the careful insistence on turned to its place, and a strip of cloth at- long note to express, he could produce a obtaining all degrees of tone color, with tached to each side of the "jack" had the cry of sorrow and complaint. Greville must the fingers alone as the only true preparaeffect of a damper in stopping the vibration, have acquired Father Wood's instrument tion for the ultimate use of forearm and This new invention applied to two instru- about the year 1760. That famous exquisite upperarm. There is no limitation implied ments-the virginal, the chest of which was and athlete invited fashionable London to in such elementary restriction. Indeed, a rectangular, and the spinnet, which had the inspect his acquisition, which became known long and persistent effort to build up the form of a harp laid in a horizontal position. to all the dilettanti as "Mr. Greville's piano- elementary side of tone production is only It is said the virginal was so called because forte." The earliest public notice of the paving the way for a discriminating and piano in London was at Covent Garden intelligent use of the various muscular fac-Both virginals and spinnets continued in Theatre May 16, 1767: "End of act I. ('The tors employed. The range of tone-color is much vogue till the middle of the seven- Beggars' Opera'), Miss Brickler will sing her not only broader, but far more subtle in the variety and differentiation of possible effect.

As a matter of practical assistance the first act of "The Scarlet Pimpernel" is a Piano-Forte." Although the superiority of teacher would do well to give the pupil spinnet by Hitchcock of London, and dates the piano over the harpsichord, the tone of works by the older masters, such as sonatas from 1643. Next the harpsichord was in- which was aptly described as "a kind of by Haydn and Mozart, the small preludes vented. This was, in fact, only a large-sized scratch with a sound at the end of it," soon and inventions of Bach, and even the short pieces of Mendelssohn and Schumann, to illustrate the manner in which the simple finger touch may be best employed. In Mendelssohn, and more particularly in Schuvolume of sound and variety of effects. The take kindly to it. Toward the close of the mann, the element of the romantic influence English makers were never rivalled in the eighteenth century, however, a great influx lays more stress on variety in tone-color, and for this reason the work of these composers may form a convenient stepping stone to such masters as Chopin, Grieg, Liszt and others, where the proper variety of color becomes an absolute essential.

In the same way, teachers should not consider that by confining their pupils to straightforward finger training they are in any way limiting their attainment to the spinnet, and harpsichord were feeble, soft, suites of Handel, were written before it was more brilliant modern school of piano playing. In the playing of such virtuosos as Paderewski, Harold Bauer, Johef Hofmann, Gabrilowitsch, Alexander Siloti, Raoul Pugno, Ferrucio Busoni and others, this elemental fact of the absolute efficiency in In this hasty and strenuous age when all simple finger technic has been the most obteachers are bent upon offering methods vious and final observation, in spite of which shall produce the maximum of tech- whatever remarkable artistic qualities these nic in the minimum of time, when short-pianists have possessed. Interpretation, vecuts are taught before the fundamental qual- locity, range of tonal effect, and all ultra ities are thoroughly grounded in the pupil, modern feats of piano playing rely, for their The merit of the invention has been as- it becomes doubly necessary to emphasize actual basis, on this simple virtue—thorough cribed by turns to the Italian, French, Ger- more strongly than ever the correct attitude, command over the fingers. It may seem All teachers know that the "pressure- unnecessary to point out this truth, or to Cristofali, whose claim has long been uni- touch," the "triceps-touch" and all the var- reiterate this warning to teachers, were it versally admitted. In May, 1876, Cristofali ious names by which the weight of the arm not that experience amply justifies it. Over had a monument erected to him in the is added to reinforce the action of fingers, and over again one meets with pupils who Church of Santa Croce, Florence, the in- is an indispensible element of modern tech- have had a certain amount of finger trainscription describing him as "True Inventor nical training. Nevertheless in their eager- ing, but who are innocent of any certainty of the Pianoforte." The French claim the ness to put their pupils abreast of the pro- or discrimination in the way in which they invention for Marius, who submitted two gress which pedagogic systems of the pres- apply it. They often cannot play a finger ent have brought about, they are too often passage without using the weight of the inclined to overlook the fact that no modern arms to help out the weakness of the fin-In England the invention of the piano is "inventions" can detract in the slightest gers. Thus unconsciusly their muscles atattributed to Father Wood, an English monk from the value of plain and simple finger tempt to eke out the insufficiency of their at Rome, who manufactured one in 1711 and training. The cultivation of absolute inde- finger training, when the pupils themselves sold it to Samuel Crisp, the author of "Vir- pendence of the fingers, a sure command are ignorant of the failure as well as of its

The only practical remedy is for the However, the first authentic notice of the of staccato and all the dynamic degrees of teacher to familiarize the pupil with the instrument discovered is the occasion of a accent must be thoroughly and completely physiological side of piano playing, to invisit of John Sebastian Bach to Frederick trained in the fingers by their own weight struct them as to the muscles of the fingers and arms and see that the lessons are rare to meet with one entirely lacking in much for teaching those who have studied

over the plain finger touch and to prevent the encroachment of the arm touch until his progress and self-command warrant it.

foundation is ever wasted. It is wellnigh like the same profusion." impossible to lay such a fundamental basis too thoroughly. The good thus obtained will always remain to the credit of the pupil. It is like the five dollar gold piece that is deposited in a bank for a child, which doubles and triples itself before the child grows up. On the other hand it is so very seldom that sufficient care is given to the first early training. Unfortunately these omissions can seldom, if ever, be made up, and then only by heroic exertions on the part of the victim.

Thorough and solid early training has been a most important factor of the world's port of concentration upon the essence of training.

IRISH MUSIC.

in England:"

"Few musicians have been found to question the assertion that Irish folk music is, gamut of human emotion from the cardle profit under inferior instructors. I believe, -Toronto Daily Star. to the battlefield, and is unsurpassed in on the contrary, that it is better to begin at poetical and artistic charm. If musical com- once with the best instruction possible. position meant nothing more than tunes six- Nothing is so difficult as to uproot faults teen bars long, Ireland could claim some of that have been contracted under inexper- more does he?" the very greatest composers that have ever ienced teachers. A double burden falls uplived; for in their minature form the best on their successors, for it is harder and Irish folk tunes are gems of absolutely flaw- more necessary to forget than to learn anew the more relatively indistinctive, it is very thais, a noted flute player, have twice as was playing it."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

thoroughly understood. Without this com- character. Of late years the publication of under other teachers as for those who beprehension of the muscles involved in play- numerous collections of arrangements by gin entirely new in the art?" ing, it is hopeless to expect the pupil to go Stanford and others, and of the huge mass to work on the right basis, or, which is far of melodies transcribed in the middle of the more necessary, to correct his own experi- last century by Petrie, has attracted special their children. ments when practicing at home. When at attention to his field; and there is no branch last the pupil has acquired definite and of folk music which has been investigated WHEN DIFFERENT PUPILS MAKE THE conscious muscular control without rigidity, with more artistic thoroughness. Nearly all then and only then, can finger training even Irish tunes show a peculiar sensitiveness of be begun, much less continued without di- feeling; it is true that frequently they do tention is suggested by the following exrect and lasting injury to his technical fu- not seem emotionaly to fit the words with cerpt from Dr. Fisher's work on Psychology which they were in their earliest days con- for Music Teachers. After pointing out the Indeed it can be only after decided pro- nected, but as mere successions of notes fact that nineteen out of twenty pupils of ficiency in simple finger work has been ob- without words of any kind they are full of equal ability will make the same mistake tained, that the more advanced touches can a subtle vitality which can give delicate in reading a piece of music for the first be attempted, and then only with extreme and distinctive sparkle to more or less time, he goes on to say: caution. Then the teacher must be on the humorous dance measures of no particular lookout for "relapses" into the habit of melodic loftiness, and also rise to such particular book of studies, he can, on turnplaying continually with the weight of the strains as "It is Not the Tear," a wonderful ing to any page, point out the place where arm. This trick is so easy as to be almost example of what can be crowded into a re- the next pupil who takes that particular unconscious, and it is just here that con-stricted structural scheme, or "If All the Sea page will go wrong. That this assertion is stant supervision must be exercised to keep Were Ink," a magnificiently majestic and not a reflection upon any particular teacher, it in reserve until required. With the free solemn march to which Moore's "Lay His or class of teachers, is obvious from the fact use of patience and encouragement, how- Sword by His Side" is exactly suited. After that it is deducted from long experience of ever, the pupil can usually be aroused into all, for sheer beauty of melody, the works large boarding schools for girls. Here the taking an interest to preserve his control of Mozart, Schubert, and the Irish folk com- pupils come from all parts of the country, been written by still greater men, but these invariably the same. In connection with this problem of learn- particular inspirations show a flawless sponing thoroughly the simple finger stroke, it taneity of utterance, an instinctive feeling ticularly difficult piece, the writer has freis well to remind the teacher that no time for lovliness and dignity of phrase as such, quently said, pointing to the middle part of spent in assuring the solidity of technical that we do not find elsewhere in anything the piece. 'You will make at least eight

A SLIDING SCALE OF FEES.

extra payment, but he says: "The money Abends, applies equally to other pieces." cuts no figure with me. I will take the boys-but only on my own terms."

"What are they?" he is asked.

"First-that I shall take them only on quarter I shall myself have the right to de- have ceased playing them as if they had technic-in the past, today and in the fu-termine how much I shall have for my work. been written for a machine incapable of exture—consists in attention to simple finger The stupid ones shall pay double and those pression. It is true that there are no exer of today should realize that the vital im- who give me pleasure by their progress pression marks in his music, but that is famous pianists. On this account the teach- shall pay less, for I have trouble and vexa- simply because none were used in his day, tion with poor scholars."

It reminds one of the decision of Quintilian, a moving way. the great Roman rhetorician, who, in one Irish music is thus eulogized by Dr. Ern- of his "Institutions of Oratory," thus introest Walker in his recent "History of Music duced Timothais, a celebrated flute player, don:

These words may be commended to parents who are choosing music teachers for

SAME MISTAKES.

A rather novel way for challenging at-

"If a teacher is in the habit of using a posers form a triad that is unchallenged in where they have been instructed by all the whole range of art; deeper tunes have kinds of teachers. Yet the result is almost

"In teaching Raff's Abends, not a parmistakes before you reach the change of signature. I will count them to myself as you play them and point them out to you.' The girl may possibly ask, 'Do you know In one of Freytag's novels the newly elect- which mistakes I shall make?' To which ed schoolmaster is considering the question the reply is, 'Yes.' A challenge of this kind of giving some of the older boys additional is a good way of stimulating attention. private instruction in Latin. He is promised What has been said with respect to Raff's

BACH BECOMING POPULAR.

One reason why Bach's works are gaintrial; second—that at the end of the first ing so rapidly in favor is that musicians musicians being supposed to have sufficient This sentiment will appeal to all teachers. taste and feeling to interpret the music in

SAMPLE OF TRAVEL TALK?

Much merriment was created last weekand a contemporary of Alexander of Mace- end by a sign in front of the Toronto churches in Parkdale which read: Subject "Many believe that children do not re- of Sunday evening's sermon, "Do you know on the whole, the finest that exists; it quire a teacher of great merit for their first what hell is?" and underneath it in smaller ranges with wonderful ease over the whole lessons, but for a time they can study with letters: "Come and hear our new organist."

QUIT PLAYING THE CORNET

"Wyndley doesn't play the cornet any

"No; he thought he'd better give it up." "Bad for his lungs, eh?"

"It wasn't that. One of the neighbors less lustre, and though, of course, some of from the beginning. Therefore shall Timo- shot two keys off the instrument while he

OCEAN TIDE WALTZ



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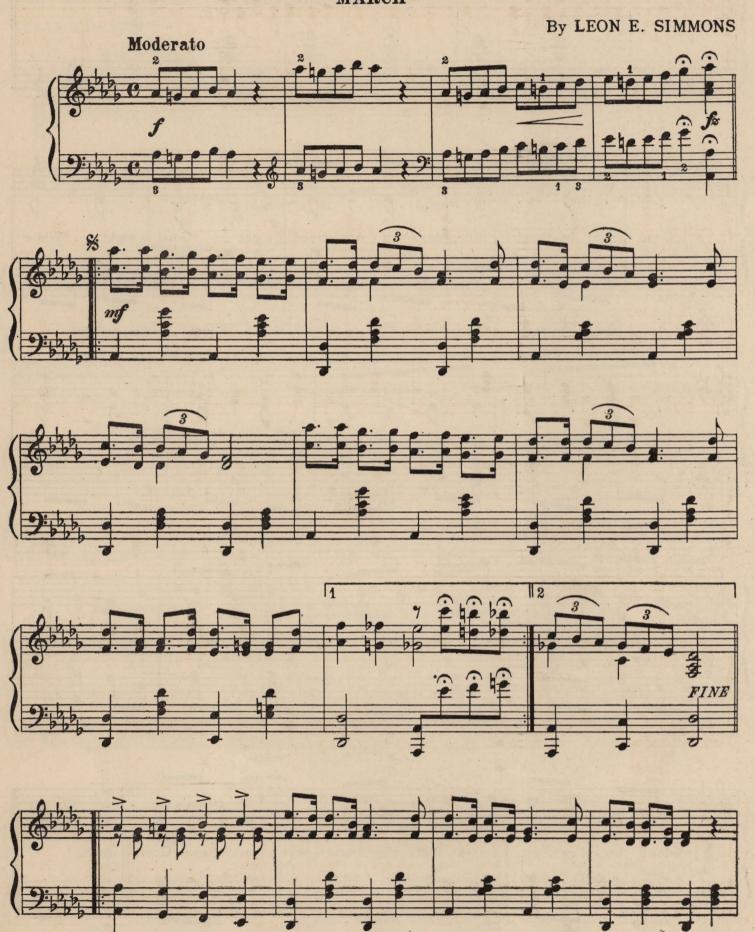
Good-night Little Girl, Good-night



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COLLEGE DAYS



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Love's Dreamland



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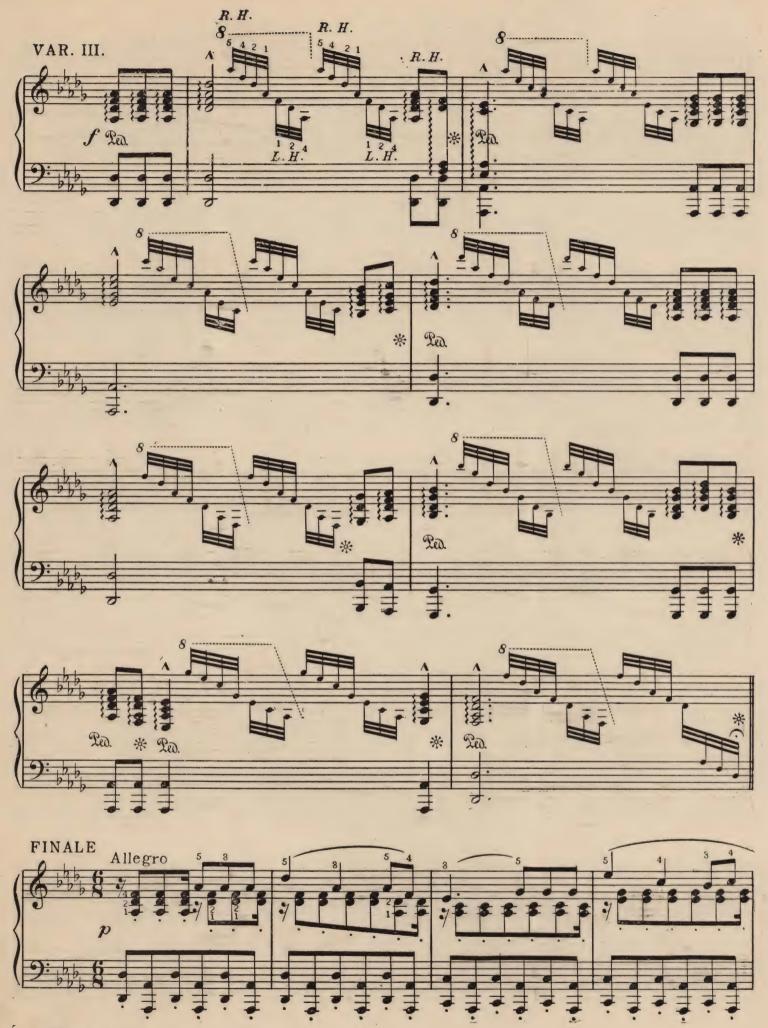


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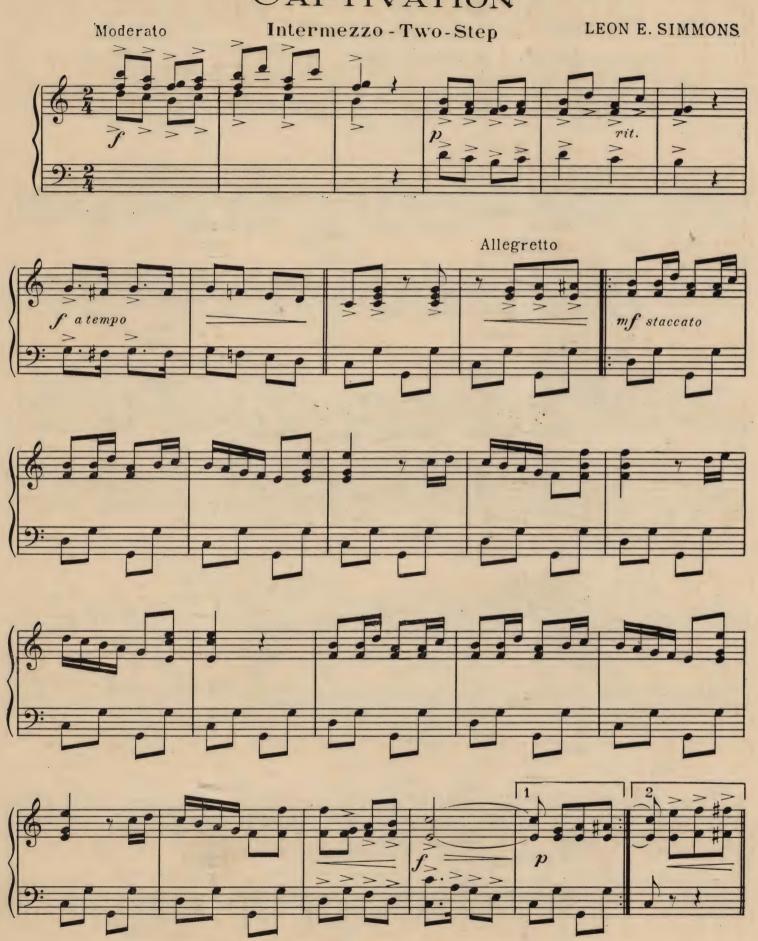




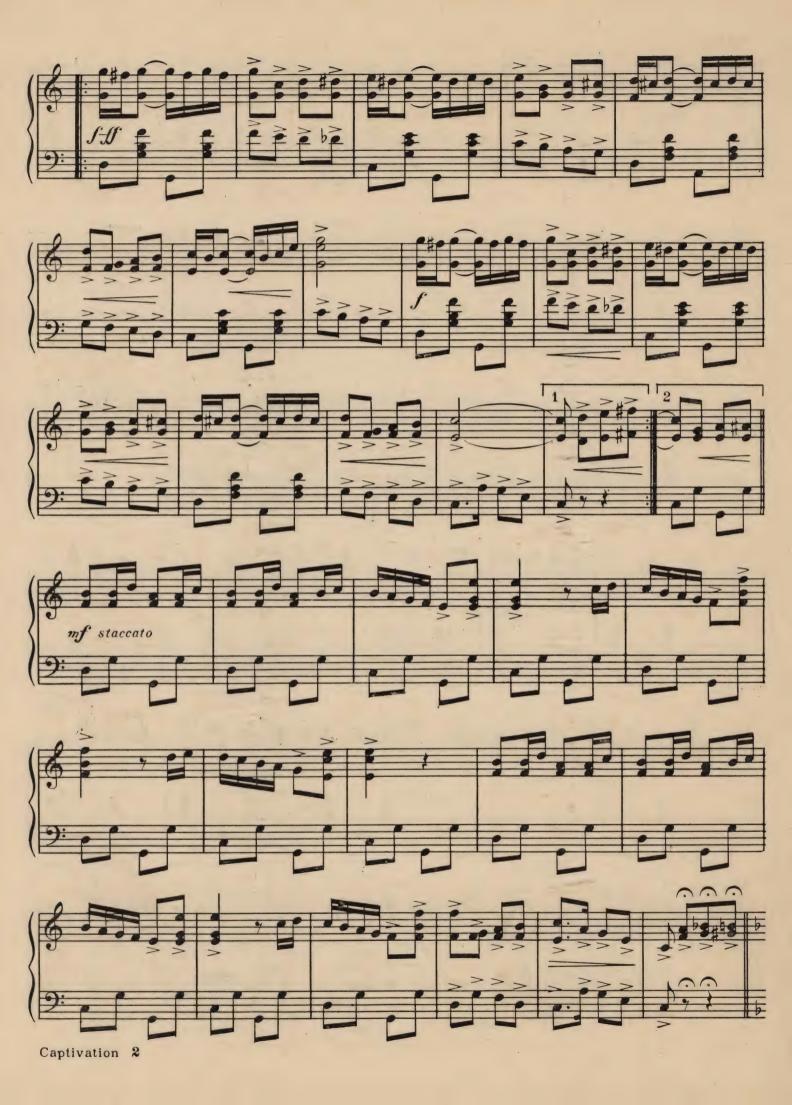
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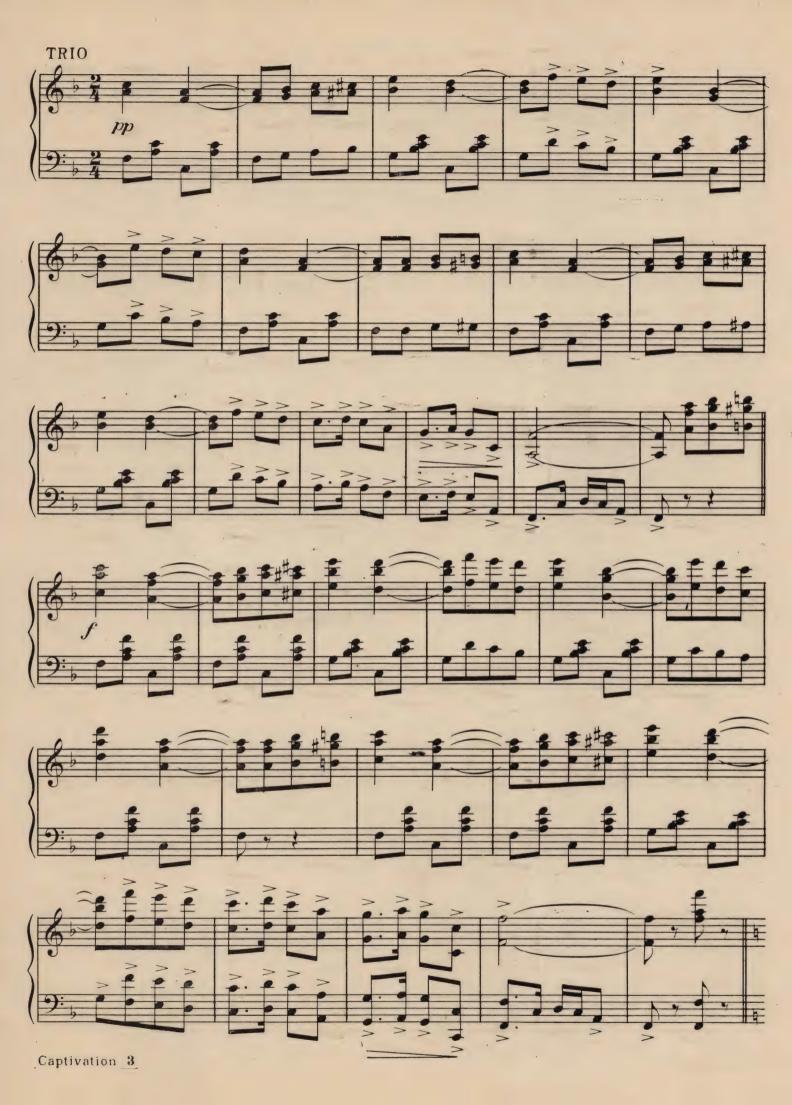


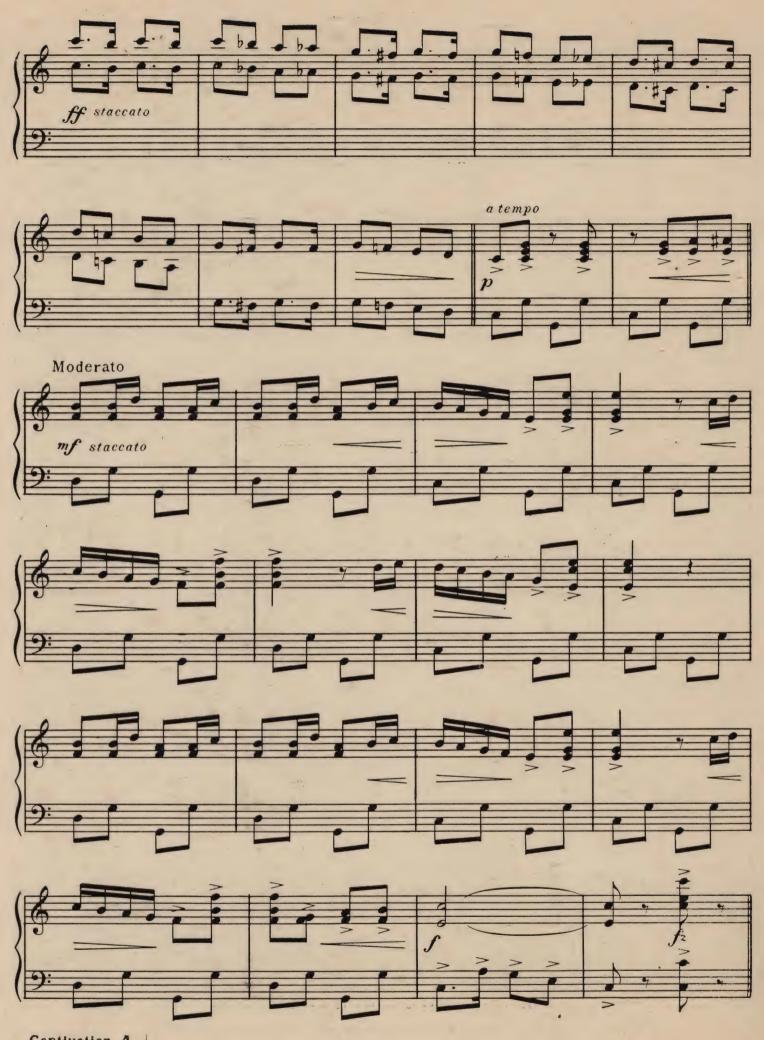
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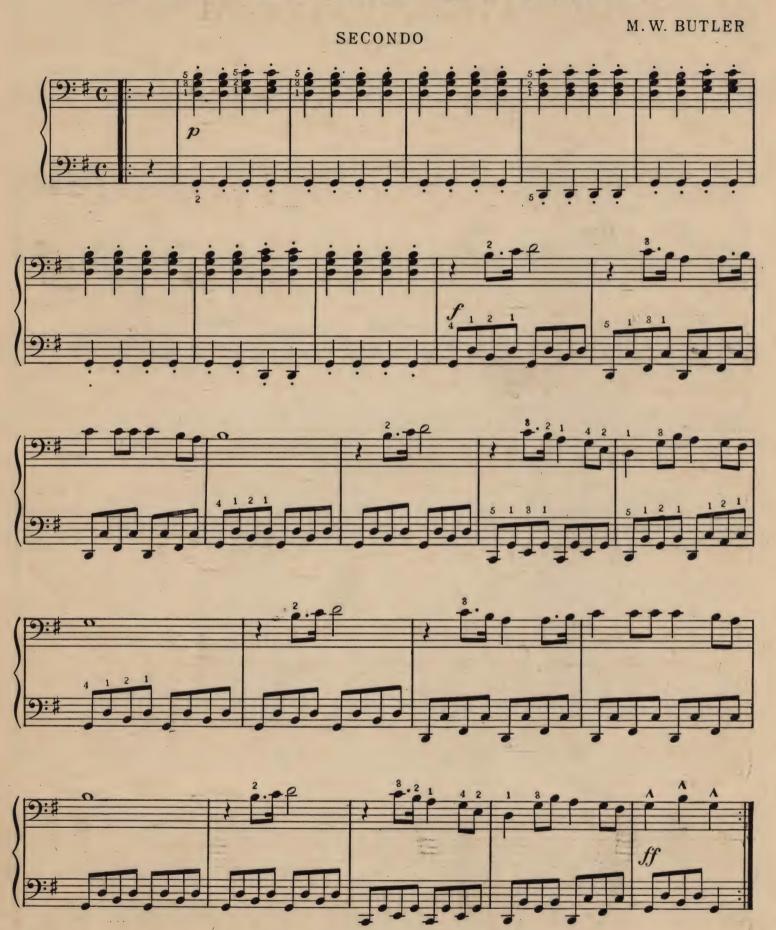
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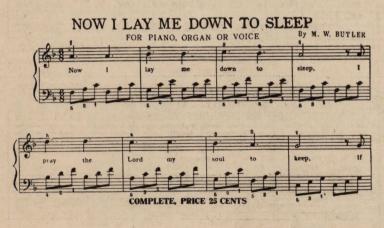
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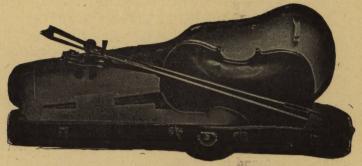
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